PROVIDENTLY. *adv.* [from *provident.*] With foresight; with wise precaution.

Nature having designed water-fowls to fly in the air, and live in the water, she *providently* makes their feathers of such a texture, that they do not admit the water. *Boyle.*

PROVIDER. *n. s.* [from *provide.*] He who provides or procures.

Here's money for my meat,
I would have left it on the board, so soon
As I had made my meal, and parted thence
With prayers for the *provider.* *Shakesp.*

PROVINCE. *n. s.* [*province*, Fr. *provincia*, Latin.]

1. A conquered country; a country governed by a delegate.

Those *provinces* these arms of mine did conquer. *Shak.*

Greece, Italy and Sicily were divided into commonwealths, till swallowed up, and made *provinces* by Rome. *Temple.*

See them broke with toils, or sunk in ease,
Or infamous for plunder'd *provinces.* *Pope.*

2. The proper office or business of any one.

I am fit for honour's toughest task;
Nor ever yet found fooling was my *province.* *Otway.*

Nor can I alone sustain this day's *province.* *More.*

'Tis thine, whate'er is pleasant, good or fair;
All nature is thy *province*, life thy care. *Dryden.*

'Tis not the pretor's *province* to bestow
True freedom. *Dryden's Persius.*

The woman's *province* is to be careful in her œconomy, and chaste in her affection. *Tatler.*

3. A region; a tract.

Over many a tract
Of heav'n they march'd, and many a *province* wide. *Milt.*

Their understandings are cooped up in narrow bounds; so that they never look abroad into other *provinces* of the intellectual world. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*

PROVINCIAL. *adj.* [*provincial*, Fr. from *province.*]

1. Relating to a province.

The duke dare not more stretch
This finger of mine, than he dare rack his own;
His subject am I more, nor here *provincial.* *Shakesp.*

2. Appendant to the provincial country.

Some have delivered the polity of spirits, and left an account even to their *provincial* dominions. *Brown.*

3. Not of the mother country; rude; unpolished.

They build and treat with such magnificence,
That, like th' ambitious monarchs of the age,
They give the law to our *provincial* stage. *Dryden.*

A country 'squire having only the *provincial* accent upon his tongue, which is neither a fault, nor in his power to remedy, must marry a cast wench. *Swift.*

4. Belonging only to an archbishop's jurisdiction; not œcumenical.

A law made in a *provincial* synod, is properly termed a *provincial* constitution. *Ayliffe's Parergon.*

PROVINCIAL. *n. s.* [*provincial*, Fr. from *province.*] A spiritual governor.

Valignanus was *provincial* of the Jesuits in the Indies. *Still.*

To PROVINCIATE. *v. a.* [from *province.*] To turn to a province. A word not in use.

When there was a design to *provinciate* the whole kingdom, Drusna, though officed a canton, would not accept of it. *Howel's Vocal Forest.*

To PROVINE. *v. n.* [*provigner*, Fr.] To lay a stock or branch of a vine in the ground to take root for more encrease.

PROVISION. *n. s.* [*provision*, Fr. *provisa*, Latin.]

1. The act of providing beforehand.

Kalander knew, that *provision* is the foundation of hospitality, and that it the jewel of magnificence. *Sidney.*

2. Measures taken beforehand.

Five days we do allot thee for *provision*,
To shield thee from disasters of the world. *Shakesp.*

He preserved all points of humanity, in taking order and making *provision* for the relief of strangers distressed. *Bacon.*

The prudent part is to propose remedies for the present evils, and *provisions* against future events. *Temple.*

Religion lays the strictest obligations upon men, to make the best *provision* for their comfortable subsistence in this world, and their salvation in the next. *Tillotson.*

3. Accumulation of stores beforehand; stock collected.

Mendoza advertised, that he would valiantly defend the city, so long as he had any *provision* of victuals. *Knolles.*

In such abundance lies our choice,
As leaves a greater store of fruit untouch'd,
Still hanging incorruptible, till men
Grow up to their *provision.* *Milton.*

David, after he had made such vast *provision* of materials for the temple, yet because he had dipt his hands in blood, was not permitted to lay a stone in that sacred pile. *South.*

4. Victuals; food; provender.

He called *provisions* to be brought in. *Clarendon.*

Provisions laid in large for man or beast. *Milton.*

5. Stipulation; terms settled.

This law was only to reform the degenerate English, but there was no care taken for the reformation of the mere Irish, no ordinance, no *provision* made for the abolishing of the barbarous customs. *Discourse on Ireland.*

PROVISIONAL. *adj.* [*provisionel*, Fr. from *provision.*] Temporarily established; provided for present need.

The commenda semestris grew out of a natural equity, that, in the time of the patron's respite given him to provide, the church should not be without a provisional pastor. *Ayliffe.*

PROVISIONALLY. *adv.* [from *provisional.*] By way of provision.

The abbot of St. Martin was born, was baptized, and declared a man *provisionally*, till time should shew what he would prove, nature had moulded him so untowardly. *Locke.*

PROVISO. *n. s.* [Latin; *a*, *provisa res data sit habituram esse.*] Stipulation; caution; provisional condition.

This *proviso* is needful, that the sheriff may not have the like power of life as the marshal hath. *Spenser.*

Some will allow the church no further power, than only to exhort, and this but with a *proviso* too, that it extends not to such as think themselves too wise to be advised. *South.*

He doth deny his prisoners,
But with *proviso* and exception,
That we, at our own charge, shall ransom strait
His brother-in-law. *Shakesp. Henry IV.*

PROVOCATION. *n. s.* *provocatio*, Lat. *provocation*, Fr.]

1. An act or cause by which anger is raised.

It is a fundamental law, in the Turkish empire, that they may, without any other *provocation*, make war upon Christendom for the propagation of their law. *Bacon.*

Tempt not my swelling rage
With black reproaches, scorn and *provocation.* *Smith.*

2. An appeal to a judge.

A *provocation* is every act, whereby the office of the judge or his assistance is asked; a *provocation* including both a judicial and an extrajudicial appeal. *Ayliffe.*

3. I know not whether, in the following passage, it be a *cause* or *incitement.*

The like effects may grow in all towards their pastor, and in their pastor towards every of them, between whom there daily and interchangably passeth in the hearing of God and his church, and in the presence of his holy angels, forth of heaven, acclamations, exultations, *provocations*, and petitions. *Hooker.*

PROVOLATILE. *n. s.* [from *provolo.*] Any thing which revives a decayed or cloyed appetite.

There would be no variety to raise to sollicit the palate, and occasion excess, nor any artificial *provolatiles* to relieve satiety. *Austin.*

PROVOCATIVENESS. *n. s.* [from *provocative.*] The quality of being provocative.

To PROVOKE. *v. a.* [*provoquer*, Fr. *provoco*, Latin.]

1. To rouse; to excite by something offensive; to anger.

Ye *provoke* me unto wrath, burning incense unto other Gods. *Jer. xlvi. 8.*

Neither to *provoke* nor dread
New war *provok'd.* *Milton.*

To whet their courage, and their rage *provoke.* *Dryden.*

I neither fear, nor will *provoke* the war. *Dryden.*

2. To anger; to enrage; to offend; to incense.

Though often *provoked*, by the insolence of some of the bishops, to a dislike of their overmuch fervour, his integrity to the king was without blemish. *Clarendon.*

Such acts
Of contumacy will *provoke* the highest. *Milton.*

Agamemnon *provokes* Apollo against them, whom he was willing to appease afterwards. *Pope.*

3. To cause; to promote.

Drink is a great provoker; it *provokes* and unprovokes. *Sha.*

One Petro covered up his patient with warm cloaths, and when the fever began a little to decline, gave him cold water to drink till he *provoked* sweat. *Arbuthnot.*

4. To challenge.

He now *provokes* the sea-gods from the shore,
With envy Triton heard the martial sound,
And the bold champion for his challenge frown'd. *Dryden.*

5. To induce by motive; to move; to incite.

We may not be startled at the breaking of the exterior earth; for the face of nature hath *provoked* men to think of, and observe such a thing. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

To PROVOKE. *v. n.*

1. To appeal. A Latinism.

Arius and Pelagius durst *provoke*
To what the centurion preceding spoke. *Dryden.*

2. To produce anger.

It was not your brother's evil disposition made him seek his death, but a *provoking* merit. *Shakesp. King Lear.*

The Lord abhorred them, because of the *provoking* of his sons. *Deuter. xxxii. 19.*

If we consider man in such a loathsome and *provoking* condition, was it not love enough, that he was permitted to enjoy a being. *Taylor.*

PROVOKER. *n. s.* [from *provoke.*]

1. One that raises anger.

As in all civil institutions, the ringleader is known of with a peculiar severity, so, in this case, the *provoker* has double portion of the guilt. *Government of the Tongue.*

2. Causer; promoter.

Drink, Sir, is a great *provoker* of nosepainting, sleep, and urine. *Shakesp. Macbeth.*

PROVOKINGLY. *adv.* [from *provoking.*] In such a manner as to raise anger.

When we see a man that yesterday kept a humiliation, to-day invading the possessions of his brethren, we need no other proof how hypocritically and *provokingly* he confessed his pride. *Decay of Piety.*

PROVOST. *n. s.* [praepaxt, Sax. *prevost*, Fr. *provosto*, Ital. *praepositus*, Lat.]

1. The chief of any body: as, *the* provost *of a college.*

2. The executioner of an army.

Kingston, *provost* marshal of the king's army, was deemed not only cruel but inhuman in his executions. *Hayward.*

PROVOSTSHIP. *n. s.* [from *provost.*] The office of a provost.

C. Piso first rose, and afterwards was advanced to the *provostship* of Rome by Tiberius. *Hakewill.*

PROW. *n. s.* [*prone*, Fr. *proa*, Spanish; *pro a*, Lat.] The head or forepart of a ship.

The sea-victory of Vespasian was a lady holding a palm in her hand, at her foot the *prow* of a ship. *Peacham.*

Straight to the Dutch he turns his dreadful *prow*,
More fierce th' important quarrel to decide. *Dryden.*

PROW. *adj.* Valiant. *Spenser.*

PROWESS. *n. s.* [*prodezza*, Italian; *prouesse*, Fr.] Bravery; valour; military gallantry.

Men of such *prowess*, as not to know fear in themselves, and yet to teach it in others that should deal with them; for they had often made their lives triumph over most terrible dangers, never dismayed, and ever fortunate. *Sidney.*

I hope
That your wisdom will direct my thought,
Or that your *prowess* can me yield relief. *Fa. Queen.*

By heav'ns mere grace, not by our *prowess* done. *F. Qu.*

Henry the fifth,
By his *prowess* conquered all France. *Shakesp.*

Nor should thy *prowess* want praise and esteem,
But that 'tis shewn in treason. *Shakesp. Henry VI.*

Those are they
First seen in acts of *prowess* eminent,
And great exploits; but of true virtue void. *Milton.*

These beyond compare of mortal *prowess.* *Milton.*

Michael! of celestial armies prince;
And thou in military *prowess* next,
Gabriel! *Milton's Par. Lost, b. vi.*

The vigour of this arm was never vain,
And that my wonted *prowess* I retain,
Witness these heaps of slaughter on the plain. *Dryden.*

These were the entertainments of the foster nations, that fell under the virtue and *prowess* of the two last empires. *Temp.*

PROWEST. *adj.* [the superlative formed from *prow*, adj.]

1. Bravest; most valiant.

They be two of the *prowest* knights on ground,
And oft approv'd in many a hard assay,
And eke of surest steel, that may be found,
Do arm yourself against that day them to confound. *F. Q.*

2. Brave; valiant.

The sanest of her sex, Angelica,
His daughter, sought by many *prowest* knights. *Milton.*

To PROWL. *v. a.* Of this word the etymology is doubtful: the old dictionaries write *prole*, which the dreamer *Caseubon* derives from περαίνω, ready, quick. *Skinner*, a far more judicious etymologist, deduces it from *praeda*, a diminutive formed by himself from *praei*, to prey, Fr. perhaps it may be formed, by accidental corruption, from *parcourir.*] To rove over.

He *prowls* each place, still in new colours deckt,
Sucking one's ill, another to infect. *Sidney.*

To PROWL. *v. n.* To wander for prey; to prey; to plunder.

The champion robbeth by night,
And *prowleth* and filcheth by daie. *Tusser.*

Nor do they bear so quietly the loss of some parcels confiscated abroad, as the great detriment which they suffer by some *prowling* vice-admiral or publick minister. *Raleigh.*

As when a *prowling* wolf,
Whom hunger drives to seek new haunt for prey. *Milton.*

Shall he, who looks erect on heav'n,
Ev'r stoop to mingle with the *prowling* herd,
And dip his tongue in gore. *Thomson.*

And here the fell attorney *prowls* for prey. *Anon.*

PROWLER. *n. s.* [from *prowl.*] One that roves about for prey.

On churchyards drear,
The disappointed *prowlers* fall, and dig
The shrouded body from the grave. *Thomson.*

PROXIMATE. *adj.* [*proximus*, Lat.] Next in the series of ratiocination; near and immediate: opposed to remote and mediate.

Writing a theory of the deluge, we were to shew the *proximate* natural causes of it. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

Substance is the remote genus of bird, because it agrees not only to all kinds of animals, but also to things inanimate; but animal is the *proximate* or nearest genus of bird, because it agrees to fewest other things. *Watts's Logick.*

PROXIMATELY. *adv.* [from *proximate.*] Immediately; without intervention.

The consideration of our mind, which is incorporeal, and the contemplation of our bodies, which have all the characters of excellent contrivance; these alone easily and *proximately* guide us to the wise author of all things. *Bentley.*

PROXIME. *adj.* [*proximus*, Lat.] Next; immediate.

A syllogism is made up of three propositions, and these of three terms variously joined: the three terms are called the remote matter of a syllogism, the three propositions the *proxime* or immediate matter of it. *Watts's Logick.*

PROXIMITY. *n. s.* [*proximite*, Fr. *proximitas*, from *proximus*, Lat.] Nearness.

When kingdoms have customably been carried by right of succession, according to *proximity* of blood, the violation of this course hath always been dangerous. *Hayward.*

If he plead *proximity* of blood,
That empty title is with ease withstood. *Dryden.*

Add the convenience of the situation of the eye, in respect of its *proximity* to the brain, the seat of common sense. *Ray.*

I can call to my assistance
Proximity, mark that! and distance. *Prior.*

Must we send to stab or poison all the popish princes, who have any pretended title to our crown by the *proximity* of blood? *Swift's Miscellanies.*

PROXY. *n. s.* [By contraction from *procuracy.*]

1. The agency of another.

2. The substitution of another; the agency of a substitute; appearance of a representative.

None acts a friend by a deputy, or can be familiar by *proxy.* *South's Sermons.*

Had Hyde thus sat by *proxy* too,
As Venus once was said to do,
The painter must have search'd the skies,
To match the lustre of her eyes. *Granvil.*

3. The person substituted or deputed.

A wise man will commit no business of importance to a *proxy*, where he may do it himself. *L'Estrange.*

PRUCE. *n. s.* [*Pruce* is the old name for Prussia.] Prussian leather.

Some leathern bucklers use
Of folded hides, and others shields of *pruce.* *Dryden.*

PRUDE. *n. s.* [*prude*, Fr.] A woman over nice and scrupulous, and with false affectation.

The graver *prude* sinks downward to a gnome,
In search of mischief, still on earth to roam. *Pope.*

Not one careless thought intrudes,
Less modest than the speech of *prudes.* *Swift.*

PRUDENCE. *n. s.* [*prudence*, Fr. *prudentia*, Lat.] Wisdom applied to practice.

Under *prudence* is comprehended, that discrete, apt, suiting, and disposing as well of actions as words, in their due place, time and manner. *Peacham.*

Prudence is principally in reference to actions to be done, and due means, order, season, and method of doing or not doing. *Hale.*

PRUDENT. *adj.* [*prudent*, Fr. *prudens*, Lat.]

1. Practically wise.

The simple inherit folly, but the *prudent* are crowned with knowledge. *Prov. xiv. 18.*

I have seen a son of Jesse, that is a man of war, and *prudent* in matters. *1 Sam. xvi. 18.*

The monarch prevented all reply,
Prudent, lest others might offer. *Milton.*

2. Foreseeing by natural instinct.

So steers the *prudent* crane
Her annual voyage. *Milton.*

PRUDENTIAL. *adj.* [from *prudent.*] Eligible on principles of prudence.

He acts upon the surest and most *prudential* grounds, who, whether the principles, which he acts upon, prove true or false, yet secures a happy issue to his actions. *South.*

Motives are only *prudential*, and not demonstrative. *Tillot.*

These virtues, though of excellent use, some *prudential* rules it is necessary to take with them in practice. *Rogers.*

PRUDENTIALS. *n. s.* Maxims of prudence or practical wisdom.

Many stanzas, in poetick measures, contain rules relating to common *prudentials*, as well as to religion. *Watts.*

PRUDENTIALITY. *n. s.* [from *prudential.*] Eligibility on principles of prudence.

Being incapable rightly to judge the *prudentiality* of affairs, they only gaze upon the visible success, and thereafter condemn or cry up the whole progression. *Brown.*

PRUDENTIALLY. *adv.* [from *prudential.*] According to the rules of prudence.

If he acts piously, soberly and temperately, he acts *prudentially* and safely. *South's Sermons.*

PRUDENTLY. *adv.* [from *prudent.*] Discretely; judiciously.

These laws were so *prudently* framed, as they are found fit for all succeeding times. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

Such

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